

VII. *On some Australian Chrysomelidae (Coleoptera) in the British Museum.* By ARTHUR M. LEA, F.E.S.

[Read April 6th, 1921.]

MR. GILBERT J. ARROW having sent for examination a few species of Australian Chrysomelidae belonging to the British Museum, a few notes on these, with descriptions of some of the new ones, are here given.

***Ditropidus albohirsutus* Baly (formerly *Elaphodes*).**

A male of this species, from the Baly collection in the British Museum, and agreeing with the original description, is quite evidently a hairy *Ditropidus*, as the antennae are typical of that genus, instead of that of *Elaphodes*, to which it was referred by Baly. In appearance it is like a large specimen of *D. flavipes* Lea, from which it may be distinguished by its larger size, less polished elytra with more distinct punctures, wider scutellum and dark hind femora.

***Ditropidus chapuisi* Baly (formerly *Bucharis*).**

A male of this species sent for examination by the British Museum is very close to *D. pubicollis* Chp., but has the eyes much closer together. Baly proposed the genus *Bucharis* for species having the tip of the scutellar lobe entire, instead of notched as in most species of *Ditropidus*, but the notch varies considerably in that genus, and is sometimes so feeble that it can only be seen when the prothorax is more or less detached, so that the lower surface of the lobe is visible; it is not a workable distinction, and I have no hesitation in referring the present species to *Ditropidus*.

***Ditropidus hirticollis* Baly.**

A male from the British Museum, sent as this species, and agreeing well with the description, is close to *D. cupricollis* Lea, and the elytral punctures and striae are almost identical, but the eyes are much closer together, less than half the width of the clypeus separating them, and the elytra are more narrowed posteriorly. The species occurs in South as well as Western Australia, as Mr. A. H. Elston has taken many specimens, including a pair *in cop.*, on the Murray River. The female differs from the male in being more robust, eyes more widely separated, legs shorter and abdomen foveate.

*Ditropidus tarsatus* Baly.

A female, sent as belonging to this species, from the British Museum, has the intercoxal process of the prosternum longer than wide, with its posterior end semi-circularly emarginate and the tips acute; the hind angles of the prothorax also embrace the shoulders. It should, possibly, have been referred to *Prasonotus*. The species is a variable and widely distributed one, as there are two examples from Roebuck Bay (North-Western Australia) in the British Museum, one from Cue (Western Australia) and another from Parachilna (South Australia) in the South Australian Museum. These range in size from 3 to 4 mm., and have the postmedian spots on the elytra varying considerably in size and intensity (on the Parachilna specimen they are irregularly conjoined); parts of the under-surface are more or less deeply infuscated. The prothorax has very minute pubescence that could be easily overlooked and was not mentioned by Baly. In the male the front tibiae are much longer and thinner than the others, and the abdomen has a small and shallow subapical impression instead of a large fovea.

*Ditropidus sculpturatus*, sp. n.

♂. Black, in parts with a more or less conspicuous coppery or bronzy gloss, apical half of elytra (except suture) flavous, tibiae, tarsi and six basal joints of antennae more or less obscurely reddish or testaceous. Head between eyes and in front, prosternum, mesosternum, sides of metasternum and of abdomen, and the pygidium, with more or less dense silvery pubescence.

Head with small more or less concealed punctures, eyes large and almost touching. *Prothorax* strongly convex, the sides and base with dense and coarse punctures, elsewhere with sparse and very small ones. *Scutellum* small and transverse. *Elytra* short, sides conspicuously narrowed posteriorly, with conspicuous striae containing fairly large punctures throughout. Front *legs* slightly longer than hind ones. Length (♂, ♀), 2-2.25 mm.

♀. Differs in being slightly larger, head with more distinct punctures (due to sparser pubescence), abdomen with a large, round, deep apical fovea, and front legs no longer than hind ones.

*Hab.* NORTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Baudin Island and Baudin Point. Types in British Museum.

A small, compact, strongly sculptured species not very close to any other known to me. The eyes of the male

are almost touching, the pubescence between them looking like a thin line of silver; the labrum is blackish and shining, with its sides obscurely reddish; the pale parts of the elytra appear like two large almost conjoined spots; the coarse punctures on the prothorax belong to sharply defined areas, they are sparser about the scutellar lobe than elsewhere, the lobe itself appears to be acute and entire, but when lifted above the scutellum is seen to be slightly notched. The species would probably have been referred to *Bucharis* by Baly.

***Ditropidus punctatostriatus*, sp. n.**

♀. Coppery, under-surface black with a bluish or coppery gloss in places, labrum, antennae, palpi, legs (claws black), apex of abdomen and of pygidium flavous. Head, under-surface and pygidium with moderately dense white pubescence.

*Head* shagreened, becoming rather coarsely but rugosely punctured in front, with a wide and shallow median line; eyes large and rather widely separated. *Prothorax* strongly convex, densely and finely strigose, except on a comparatively small medio-basal space. *Elytra* about as long as the basal width, somewhat narrowed posteriorly, with conspicuous striae containing large punctures throughout. *Abdomen* with a large, round, deep apical fovea. Length, 2.5 mm.

*Hab.* NORTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Baudin Point. Type in British Museum.

The shagreened head, densely striated prothorax and strongly sculptured elytra render this species a very distinct one, although the colours are much as on many others; it would probably have been referred to *Bucharis* by Baly, as the scutellar lobe appears from above to be acute and entire; from behind, however, its lower edge is seen to be notched. The antennae are rather longer than is usual in *Ditropidus*, but shorter than in *Elaphodes*; of the three specimens under examination one has them entirely pale, another has the tip only infuscated, and the other has the five joints of the club lightly infuscated on the upper surface. The strigosities of the prothorax, although fine, are quite distinct, the space from which they are absent is sharply defined and occupies about one-third of the surface in width and one-half in length; there are some small punctures on its front portion and rather strong ones along the base.

**Ditropidus inconspicuus, sp. n.**

♂. Black, upper-surface with a slight bronzy gloss; basal half of antennae testaceous.

Head shagreened and with small punctures, becoming distinct in front; eyes widely separated. *Prothorax* about thrice as wide as the median length, side strongly rounded in front; scutellar lobe distinctly notched, punctures rather dense, but small and not very sharply defined. *Scutellum* small, more than twice as long as wide. *Elytra* with outlines gently rounded and continuous with those of prothorax, with inconspicuous rows of small punctures, but the sides with distinct striae, interstices with minute punctures and faintly rugulose. Basal joint of front tarsi rather large. Length (♂, ♀), 1.75–2 mm.

♀. Differs in being rather more robust, antennae and legs somewhat shorter, basal joint of front tarsi smaller and abdomen with a large, round, deep apical fovea.

*Hab.* NEW SOUTH WALES: Sydney (*C. Darwin*). Types in British Museum.

A small briefly-elliptic species with a thin scutellum much as in *D. scutellaris* Lea, but differs from that species in being smaller, prothorax with much smaller and less sharply defined punctures, lateral striae of elytra less deep, head with denser punctures, its median line less conspicuous, labrum darker, etc. The head and under-surface are pubescent, but very sparsely and inconspicuously so.

OCNIDA.

The original diagnosis of *Ocnus* of Clark (subsequently altered to *Ocnida* by Lefevre) is very unsatisfactory; Chapuis and Blackburn could not place it, but the latter evidently thought it might be a valid genus, as Baly had referred a second species to it. By the courtesy of Mr. Arrow I have seen authenticated specimens of both species (*viridis* and *pallida*), the former from Baly's collection and compared with the type, the latter marked "Type," but evidently a cotype; but I cannot regard the two species as congeneric, or even as belonging to closely allied genera.

Clark described the head of *viridis* as "haud verticale, penitus porrectum," and said the legs were as in *Edusa*, in comparing with which he also spoke of "its more porrect head." The differences he mentioned as separating it from *Edusa* are all worthless, the head (except for a slight

convexity) is normally vertical,\* some species of *Edusa* are quite as parallel, as thin and elongate, and many have the labrum quite as deeply emarginate. The legs also are certainly not as in any species of *Edusa* in the South Australian Museum, more nearly resembling those of several species of *Colaspoides* and of *Geloptera*. The specimen before me is a male, its femora are stout and edentate, hind tibiae dilated to apex, notched at the lower apex, and with a long apical bristle, basal joint of four front tarsi strongly inflated and of the hind ones elongate, and claws with a wide basal appendix. The fourth segment of the abdomen is as long as the second and third combined, the fifth is transversely impressed across the middle, with its apex incurved and elevated. The upper surface is clothed with short and rather sparse but quite distinct pubescence, longer at sides and base of prothorax than on head and elytra, on parts of the under-surface the pubescence is fairly dense and on the abdomen there are some rather long straggling hairs. The head and prothorax are shagreened. I consider the genus (on account of the sexual features of the abdomen and legs) as distinctly closer to *Colaspoides* than to *Edusa*; and although not a sharply defined one, quite as distinct as many others of the sub-family. *O. pallida* is a *Megasceloides*.

#### MEGASCELOIDES.

The original diagnosis of this genus † was placed between descriptions of species of *Macrolema* and *Microgonus*, and the genus was compared with *Megascelis*. There is no doubt therefore but that Jacoby considered it as not belonging to the *Eumolpides*; nevertheless in treating of the *Criocerides* (23—1904) and *Megascelides* (32—1905) in Wytsman's "Genera Insectorum," he included it in neither. Blackburn, in referring a second species to the genus, said he had doubtfully regarded it as belonging to the *Megascelides*. *M. pallidus* of Jacoby was identified by Blackburn as a species from Western Australia that appears to me to agree well with the original description; but this species is identical with one sent for examination

\* Accidental causes and the manipulation used to "set" parts of the head must often result in its being somewhat out of its proper position.

† Ann. Soc. Ent. Belge, xlii, p. 351.



by Mr. Arrow as *Ocnus pallidus* of Baly. I believe its position to be fairly close to *Edusa*; its pygidium (normally almost or quite concealed) has the deep median furrow that appears to be invariably present in the *Eumolpides*. *Terillus squamosus* Baly, also belongs to the genus, and probably *T. perplexus* Baly, and *duboulayi* Baly. Those known to me may be thus tabulated—

Elytra densely clothed.

Elytra with long erect hairs in addition to depressed clothing.  
*squamosus* Baly.

Elytra without long erect hairs . . . . . *arrowi* Lea

Elytra glabrous (the margins sometimes excepted).

Elytra with sides and suture deeply infuscated.

*circumcinctus* Blackb.

Elytra nowhere deeply infuscated . . . . . *pallidus* Baly.

**Megasceloides pallidus** Baly (formerly *Ocnus*),  
*M. pallidus*, Jac.

Both Baly's and Jacoby's types were from Nichol Bay in North-Western Australia.

**Megasceloides squamosus** Baly (formerly *Terillus*).

A cotype of this species, sent for examination, is probably a male, the basal joint of each of its four front tarsi is larger than those of the hind ones, but not very conspicuously inflated; the fourth segment of its abdomen is the length of the third, but much shorter than the fifth, it is gently depressed in the middle, with the apex feebly incurved, the fifth has three shallow depressions towards the apex, the middle one of which is open posteriorly so that the apex is distinctly notched. The antennae are not inflated in the middle, but this character appears to be a sexual and specific, rather than a generic one. The prothorax was described as being "impressed, but not very closely, with deep round punctures," these were also described as subremote; on the cotype they are decidedly dense at the sides, but sparser in the middle, although even for these the expression "subremote" would not be correct; possibly the character is variable. The tibiae are all somewhat produced at the outer apex, but the four hind ones are not distinctly notched near the same.

**Megasceloides circumcinctus** Blackb.

Recorded simply as from Western Australia; there are two specimens from Cue in the South Australian Museum.

**Tomyris dumbrelli** Lea.

Four females from Sydney (*C. Darwin*) evidently belong to this species; they are slightly stouter than the males; the antennae are shorter and more of the joints are infuscated; the upper surface is entirely brassy or bronzy, but not highly polished, and parts of the sterna have a vague greenish gloss.

**Edusa chlorion** Lea.

A specimen of this species was taken at King George's Sound by Darwin.

**Rhyparida cyrtops**, sp. n.

Black, parts of muzzle, of elytra, of legs and of antennae more or less reddish or castaneous.

*Head* strongly convex at base, with dense punctures in front and at base; eyes prominent and widely separated. *Prothorax* about once and one-half as wide as long, sides strongly rounded, front angles armed; punctures dense and rather coarse on sides, becoming sparser and smaller, but quite distinct in middle. *Elytra* much wider than prothorax, with rows of rather large punctures, becoming much smaller posteriorly and almost vanishing about apex. Flanks of *prosternum* closely striated throughout. Length, 3.5-3.75 mm.

*Hab.* WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Baly collection, from F. du Boulay), Nichol Bay (Fry collection). Type in British Museum.

The three specimens before me all differ somewhat in colour: on the type the elytra are castaneous, except for the suture, margins, and a subtriangular space on each side at the basal third, its tibiae and basal third of antennae are more or less obscurely reddish; the second specimen has the elytra black except for a small flavous spot on each shoulder and two large subapical spots; the third specimen may be immature, its elytra are as on the type, except that the markings are less sharply defined, its head and prothorax are partly pale and legs entirely so. In general appearance it is close to some forms of *R. apicalis* Jac.; structurally, especially as regards the eyes, it is close to

*R. flavipennis* Lea, but the armed front angles of the prothorax are distinctive. The clypeal suture is rather ill-defined, but as there is a faint depression at its position, and there are some distinct punctures close behind this and some more about the base, it might, in my table of the genus, be referred to *Ak* and associated with *R. bimaculicollis* Lea, to which it is not at all close; but regarding it as belonging to *kk* it would be associated with *R. copei* Lea, which has considerably larger eyes, pale prothorax, etc. The two may be thus distinguished.

Distance between eyes less than transverse diameter of an eye.

*R. copei* Lea.

Distance more than transverse diameter of an eye . *R. cyrtops* Lea.